

Leicester, Massachusetts,

June 30. 1857.

Dear Mr. Webb;

My first word, of course, must be congratulatory on your having seen Rome. The old saying is, 'See Rome & die' - but that related to times when it was almost as much as a man's life was worth to get so far, even as from England thither, and when it was a more generally-accepted fact than now that such a visit was equal to the washing out of a great many sins, & might be considered as ^{in itself} a good passport to heaven. There are far worthier reasons than any such why one should desire to see Rome, and I truly rejoice with you that you have had the opportunity, & more especially under such very favourable circumstances. I had, some weeks since, a very nice letter from Anne Weston. She had much to say of your visit, and I judge that you must have enjoyed it exceedingly, and your letter to the Standard indeed fully warranted me in the conclusion. - I was greatly astonished at learning from your wife that you had gone thither. Please tell her that I religiously kept the secret of your journey, not betraying it to a living soul, until (some 3 or 4 weeks after) it was told to me, as a piece of news received via England! So I hope

she will allow that we can keep a secret, over here, when we try! — It is a great drawback on such tours that they must, to the most of us, even when we can enjoy them at all, be so very short. But when we are put to it, it is astonishing how much may be crowded into a very short time. I remember that you English & Irish people laughed at me (in 1843) for driving on at such a rate, and undertaking to see so many countries in six months. But it was then, or never; and I doubt if two persons have often contrived to see and enjoy more, with such facilities of locomotion as then existed, than my brother and I did in those 6 months. $4\frac{1}{2}$ months I ought to say, for six weeks were consumed in twice crossing the Atlantic. — Now I feel greatly encouraged to believe, to hope, & to expect, that some of these days you will take a sudden notion for America, and pop in upon us before we know it. How I wish you would! We must contrive to make it possible for you, in some way, to think that you can leave Dublin long enough, without neglecting any important duty, — but, on the other hand, be rendering to us and our great work very valuable aid. — I hope to get a letter from you, telling me what you thought of the

Western party ^{collectively} generally & individually - of Lucia W.'s health, & when Anne will be likely to return to America, - though I doubt if she knows this herself. I believe it was your first meeting with Anne? was it? And what did you think of that little woman? I feel sure that she would suit your Irish heartiness & frankness right well. She has a great being in that little body. Her spirits, her animation, her earnestness, her deep & clear insight, her flow of language in conversation, her manner of speech, and all together, are very taking with most people, and make her a great favourite. You have now seen all that group of sisters, I believe, save Deborah. She is, also, a very bright, animated, cheerful girl - very efficient & 'smart', as we say. On the whole, we think them a very remarkable family. - I was extremely sorry to hear, from Anne W., how wretchedly ill Mary Estlin was in Rome. There is something in the air of Rome which appears almost to poison some persons. I have heard of many such instances within a few years; - not of people being affected just alike, but of their feeling so debilitated, or so injuriously affected, as to have to fly for their lives. - I would be glad to know something ^{more} of your route, to & from, than you gave in the Standard.

Your last to me was dated March 6th, & was recd. 27th. - a short note on business, via New York. The business has been all, I believe, attended to. I hope Mrs. Jacob's two papers now go rightly. I have never yet asked Garrison to write the note of acknowledgement to Mrs. J., but I will do so. - I sent to you, about 4 weeks since, by one of Train's Co; (now Thayer & Warren's) Line of Packet Ships, the Vol. of Olmstead on Texas, for which you asked. Is it recd? - Henry C. Wright is now somewhere at the West, but I gave him your thanks for Shippers, &c. -

I was very much gratified to receive Mrs. Webb's note of March 27th. I read what she said of C. K. Whipple's article in the London Times, &c (then just recd by her) to C. K. W., who was much gratified. - C. K. W. is writing some admirable papers for the Liberator & Standard. His whole time is now given to the A. S. Cause. I think his article, in Lib., some 3 weeks since, on the A. S. Meeting at Park Street Church, one of the most admirable & appropos pieces the paper has contained for a long time.

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I believe I have ^{given} ~~written~~ Mrs. Jacob's name wrongly above, and that it should be Gough. I am puzzled about this name, and the Lib. direction may be wrong. In your note of March 6th you had written it Mrs. Gough of Ballitore, - you then erased Gough, & wrote Jacob, thus (Mrs. ^{Jacob} ~~Gough~~ of Ballitore.) this led me to suppose Jacob the right name now. But I notice your wife's note says that Jacob was her maiden name, which now is Eliza Gough. You will pardon me for saying I think your wife is more likely to be right in this matter, and I shall be governed by her note. Indeed I think I did so arrange it in the Lib. books; if not, I will. -

I ordered Standard to Henry Rogers, Tolson St, Leeds, Eng. - I hope he gets it. I send you two clever letters of E. Dunning to the N. Y. Tribune. Our National anniversary is at hand - 4 days hence. We - disunionists - keep it as usual. With sincere respects to Mrs. Webb, believe me, most truly, Yours, Saml. May Jr.